

**Public Hearing**  
**Joint Committee on Government Administration and Elections**  
**Friday, March 2, 2012**  
**Testimony**

**IN FAVOR OF: Section 45 of HB 5027: AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE ELIMINATION, CONSOLIDATION AND MODIFICATION OF VARIOUS BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.**

My name is Bill Knight, and I reside at 83 Pythian Avenue in Torrington. I am the Legislative Policy and Planning Committee Chairman for the CT Council on Developmental Disabilities. I have come here today to testify in strong support of section 45 of HB 5027. This section of the raised bill establishes the council in state statute. The council's mission is to promote the full inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in their community. It is accomplished through self-advocacy, capacity building, and systems change.

The Council came into existence in 1970, through a letter from Governor Thomas Meskill. Though this letter was never followed by either an executive order or by state statute. The passage of this legislation would remedy this situation.

As you have already heard, all of our funding comes from the federal government, and 5 percent of our budget is contributed to our designated state agency, which is the Department of Developmental Services. I am pleased that Governor Malloy has chosen to stagger the terms of membership. This insures that all of the council members won't retire at the same time. I urge you to support the passage of HB 5027, and I thank you for allowing me to testify on this important legislation.

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